



WA State Dept. of Health
Immunization Program

Immunization Update

January 2001

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Hepatitis Activities

Update on Hepatitis B Prevention in Asian and Pacific Islander (API) People

Certain groups of people, including API people, are at higher risk of becoming infected with the hepatitis B virus. Among immigrants coming to the U.S. from Asia, Africa, and other places, rates of hepatitis B infection can be as high as 15% compared to 0.5% among the general U.S.

population. The Asian and Pacific Islander Task Force, a task force of the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington (IACW), received funding from the National Task Force on Hepatitis B Immunization: Focus on Asians and Pacific Islanders to conduct outreach to Asian media sources in Washington. The Task Force includes members from the API community, local health jurisdictions, International Community Health Services, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, IACW, the Department of Health (DOH) Immunization Program, vaccine manufacturers, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Activities targeting the media were scheduled to coincide around the time of Lunar New Year on January 24. The Lunar New Year celebration is an opportune time to promote the health of children in the API community in the Year of the Snake by preventing hepatitis B infection. Targeted efforts to Asian media sources will include the distribution of a media packet. This packet is scheduled for distribution the week of January 29 and includes: a cover letter, hepatitis B fact sheet, information about the Task Force, prewritten articles (2 translated into Chinese and Vietnamese), list of spokespersons to interview, educational materials, and materials order form from DOH. A news release was sent to all Puget Sound region newspapers and media sources on Monday, January 22 from DOH Communications Office. In addition, black and white ads were developed and paid to be placed in 4-targeted newspapers from January-March. This ad has the API hepatitis B poster graphic and text that encourages hepatitis B vaccination. For further questions on these activities or to obtain the media packet, please contact Trang Kuss at (360) 236-3555.

Revised Perinatal Hepatitis B Confidential Case Report Form

The Mother/Infant case report form has been revised (a sample is included). It is now on one page, front and back, and no longer has NCR pages. Instructions on sending in case report forms are on the back of the case report form. This type of format was requested by many Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinators and is expected to decrease the amount of time involved in reporting information. The Household Contact Case Report form is in the process of being revised to be in this same format. It is expected to be available in the next month. Please call Trang Kuss at (360) 235-3555 if you have any questions or call the material order line at (360) 664-8797 to order more forms.

Education and Outreach

New or revised materials available at the Immunization Distribution Center

- ❖ 2001 CDC Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule (copy included)
- ❖ Updated Minimum Requirements for School Attendance for 2001-2002 (copy included)
- ❖ New poster "Immunize at All Ages"
- ❖ New inserts "Immunize at All Ages"
- ❖ New ad slick & logos "Immunize at All Ages"
- ❖ PCV7 (Interim*) VIS's available in English & Spanish
- ❖ Updated "Accountability" forms
- ❖ New "Temperature Monitoring log"

**New Hep B & PCV7 VIS's are scheduled to be completed by CDC next month. (and possibly Td & DTaP VIS's, as well)*

Plain Talk is being revised and should be available in the Distribution Center by the end of February. *Plain Talk* is also being translated into Spanish through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and will be available in February or March.

Staff Update

The Immunization Program is pleased to announce that Beth Hines has joined our staff as the Adult/Adolescent Immunization Coordinator. Beth comes to us from Oral Health and has extensive state, local and community experience. Beth can be reached by calling 360-236-3595.

CDC Downlink dates for 2001

- ❖ Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, 4-part course – March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 9-12:30.
- ❖ Immunization Update – September 20

National Conferences for 2001

- ❖ National Health Education and Promotion Conf. (ASTDHPPE), April 25-27 – Atlanta, GA
- ❖ Society for Public Health Education (Mid-Year Scientific Conference, May 3-5 – Seattle, WA
- ❖ National Immunization Conference, May 30-June 1 – Atlanta, GA
- ❖ National Registry Conference, July 9-11 – Little Rock, AR
- ❖ Regional VFC Conference, July 17-18 – Salt Lake City, UT
- ❖ National Hepatitis Conference, July 30-Aug. 2 – Richmond, VA

WA State Joint Conference on Health, October 8-10 -- Yakima

News Briefs

For up-to-date statewide flu activity, visit the DOH influenza web page at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/InfEpi/HTML/FluUpdate.htm>

"2 STUDIES BREAK VACCINE-MS CONNECTION"

USA Today (www.usatoday.com) (02/01/01) P. 9D; Manning, Anita

Two individual studies published in the New England Journal of Medicine conclude that there is no link between vaccines and multiple sclerosis (MS), despite unproven suggestions raised by consumer advocacy groups. Health officials hope the studies, performed by Harvard University researchers in one group and French and Canadian researchers in another, will help the public to trust vaccines again after a period of suspicion. The Harvard scientists studied 192 women with MS and 645 women without the disease and found that both groups had similar vaccination schedules and there was no elevated risk of MS. The other study worked with 643 MS patients and found no trigger for MS in vaccinations for flu, tetanus, or hepatitis B—an important finding because critics have suggested vaccines that work on the immune system may cause the chain of events that lead to MS, an immune system disorder.

REVISED HEPATITIS B EDUCATION MATERIALS ON IAC'S WEBSITE

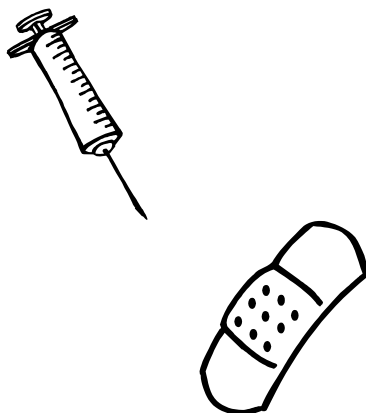
Check IAC's website for a new version of the helpful patient education piece "Do You Have Chronic Hepatitis B?" (formerly titled "If You Are a Hepatitis B Carrier..."). This one-page document tells patients how they can best take care of themselves, how to protect others from hepatitis B, and where to turn for more information.

To obtain a copy, go to: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4120.htm>

IMMUNIZATION ARTWORK BY KIDS AVAILABLE FREE ON IAC'S WEBSITE

Looking for illustrations to liven up your immunization education materials? Visit IAC's website for free downloadable children's artwork that you can use in your brochures, handouts, overheads, and presentations.

Go to: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/kidart.htm>





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Questions, call 360-236-3569